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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 17 October 2002 at 10 a.m.

Chairman:	Mr. Wenaweser	(Liechtenstein)
later:	Ms. Leyton (Vice-Chairman)	(Chile)
later:	Mr. Wenaweser (Chairman)	(Liechtenstein)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Agenda item 97: Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (*continued*) (A/C.3/57/L.14/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.14/Rev.1: Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

1. **The Chairman** said that the draft resolution, as amended, had no programme budget implications.

2. **Ms. Serazzi** (Chile) said that Australia, Guyana, India, Jamaica, Mozambique, New Zealand and Slovakia had joined the sponsors.

3. **The Chairman** said that the following countries had also become sponsors: Canada, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia, Latvia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mauritania, Mongolia, Singapore and Viet Nam.

4. *Draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.14/Rev.1 was adopted.*

5. **The Chairman** said that the Committee had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 97.

Agenda item 98: Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (*continued*) (A/C.3/57/L.6, L.12 and L.13/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.6: Preparation for and observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family

6. **The Chairman** said that the Economic and Social Council had recommended the adoption of the draft resolution, which had no programme budget implications.

7. *Draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.6 was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.12: Promoting youth employment

8. **The Chairman** recalled that the following countries had become sponsors at the time of the introduction of the draft resolution: Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Colombia, Croatia, Denmark, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritius, Mauritania, Mozambique, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United Republic of Tanzania.

9. He also recalled the two amendments made to the text of the draft resolution: in the English version, the words "The General Assembly" should be inserted at the beginning of the text and, in paragraph 3, the words ", the Secretariat" should be inserted after "the World Bank" so that the phrase would read "in collaboration with the World Bank, the Secretariat and other relevant specialized agencies"; the rest of the sentence remained unchanged.

10. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

11. **Mr. Ndiaye** (Senegal) said that the Secretariat had considered that there would be no point in issuing a revised version of the draft resolution because only minor changes had been made to the text. In light of the statement made by the Egyptian delegation during the introduction of the draft resolution, the sponsors had agreed that the words "the Secretariat" should be inserted before "the World Bank", in order to avoid giving the impression that the Secretariat was a United Nations agency.

12. In addition to the countries listed by the Chairman, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Jamaica, Poland, Romania, San Marino, the Sudan, Thailand and Venezuela had also become sponsors. His delegation hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

13. **Ms. Morgan-Moss** (Panama) said that her delegation also wished to join the sponsors.

14. **Mr. Roshdy** (Egypt) said that his delegation was in favour of the amendment proposed by the Senegalese delegation and wished to thank it for having taken into account his statement on the matter.

15. **The Chairman** said that Belize, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Fiji, Guatemala, India,

Malaysia, Nepal, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Zambia had also joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

16. *Draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.12, as orally amended, was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.13/Rev.1: United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all

17. **The Chairman** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

18. **Mr. Gansukh** (Mongolia) said that the following countries had joined the list of sponsors: Afghanistan, Antigua and Barbuda, Austria, Bhutan, Brazil, Cameroon, Costa Rica, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Finland, France, the Gambia, Guyana, Islamic Republic of Iran, Jamaica, Kenya, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania.

19. **The Chairman** said that the following countries had also become sponsors: Algeria, Andorra, Bolivia, Burundi, Cape Verde, the Congo, Djibouti, Fiji, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nepal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Uganda Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

20. *Draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.13/Rev.1 was adopted.*

21. **The Chairman** suggested that the Committee should recommend that the General Assembly take note of the reports of the Secretary-General respectively entitled "Preparations for the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004" (A/57/139 and Corr.1) and "International Year of Volunteers: outcomes and future perspectives" (A/57/352).

22. *It was so decided.*

23. **The Chairman** said that the Committee had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 98.

Agenda item 99: Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing (*continued*) (A/C.3/57/L.15/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.15/Rev.1: Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

24. **Ms. Kislinger** (Venezuela) said that the following countries had joined the list of sponsors since the introduction of the draft resolution: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. She thanked delegations for the flexibility and constructive spirit they had shown during the negotiations.

25. **The Chairman** said that the revised draft resolution had no programme budget implications. Burkina Faso, Croatia, France, Haiti, Iceland, Israel, Monaco, Norway, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Switzerland and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia had also become sponsors.

26. *Draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.15/Rev.1 was adopted.*

27. **The Chairman** said that the Committee had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 99.

Agenda item 102: Advancement of women (*continued*) (A/C.3/57/L.16-L.21)

Draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.16: Future operations of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

28. **Ms. Kislinger** (Venezuela), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that Mexico had become a sponsor. It should be recalled that a merger of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) had been proposed since 1993; the division of tasks among the various bodies dealing with women's issues should be clearly identified to avoid duplication.

29. In 1994, at the request of the General Assembly, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had presented a report (A/49/365), in which it concluded that the question of a possible merger could be discussed at the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in 1995. However, no final decision had ever been taken regarding the status of INSTRAW or a possible merger with UNIFEM, hence the current crisis and the reluctance of donor countries to make contributions.

30. In its report on the audit it had conducted on INSTRAW, in document A/56/907, the Office of

Internal Oversight Services had noted that "there was a lack of effective inter-agency coordination on issues related to women". The situation of INSTRAW should thus be evaluated in the context of the competencies of all the bodies that comprised the United Nations machinery for the advancement of women.

31. Alongside the decline in voluntary contributions, INSTRAW lacked a Director. In that connection, it should be recalled that, according to the Institute's statute, the Director had the responsibility to actively seek appropriate funding for the implementation of the work programme of the Institute. It was not clear to Member States why the appointment of a Director of the Institute had been constantly delayed, despite repeated requests from the General Assembly to the Secretary-General, nor why an interim director had been appointed. It would be useful to stress the need to make fund-raising activities a priority for the Director.

32. The absence of a Director had also had repercussions on the projects carried out by the Institute, since the Director was responsible for submitting the work programme and budget estimates to the Board of Trustees for its consideration. In the current state of affairs, it was not likely that any new initiatives could be undertaken.

33. The assumption that closure of the Institute was imminent could also explain the decline in contributions. Lacking proper management since 1999, INSTRAW had been operating on a "provisional" basis, on the understanding that its activities could cease at any moment. That expectation was compounded by the fact that the Controller's Office each year set aside US$ 200,000 from the Institute's annual budget that could be used for closing expenses. It was thus understandable that donor countries were unwilling to contribute to the Trust Fund for INSTRAW.

34. By its resolution 56/125, the General Assembly decided to establish a working group on the future operation of the Institute; the Group of 77 and China considered its recommendations to be satisfactory.

35. She pointed out that the Institute was the only body in the United Nations system with a mandate to study the question of gender equality; for civil society, recognition of the usefulness of the Institute should override considerations relating to the costs of maintaining it.

36. It was the responsibility of all Member States, in a determined and transparent spirit, to find a permanent solution to the question of the status of INSTRAW. The Institute belonged to everyone and it was time to act in accordance with the commitments undertaken in respect of the advancement of women.

37. The Group of 77 and China had therefore decided to incorporate the working group's recommendations in the draft resolution under consideration, believing them to be the result of a rigorous study of the various options for the future of INSTRAW.

38. The Group of 77 and China reaffirmed their unwavering support for INSTRAW and their readiness to participate in a constructive negotiation process, with a view to achieving a viable solution that was acceptable to all Member States.

Draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.17: Trafficking in women and girls

39. **Ms. Garcia** (Philippines), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of its sponsors, said that Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Cape Verde, Finland, Israel, Madagascar and Switzerland also wished to become sponsors. Recalling that her country considered trafficking in women and girls to be an important and complex issue, she stressed that the international community must cooperate more closely to improve the protection of victims. The draft resolution constituted an updated version of General Assembly resolution 55/67, incorporating the most significant provisions of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2002/51; reference was also made to the commitments undertaken by Member States in the Millennium Declaration. After citing the fifth, ninth, twelfth, fifteenth, eighteenth and nineteenth preambular paragraphs and operative paragraphs 10, 12, 15, 19, 20 and 26, she thanked all the sponsors of the draft resolution and expressed the hope that it would be adopted by consensus.

40. **The Chairman** said that Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Fiji, Haiti, Liberia, New Zealand, Sierra Leone and Venezuela had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.18: Situation of older women in society

41. **The Chairman** said that since the text of the draft resolution had not been finalized, it would be introduced at a later date.

Draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.19: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

42. **Ms. Fried** (Sweden), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of its sponsors, said that the following countries had also become sponsors: Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Dominican Republic, the Gambia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Samoa, South Africa, Thailand, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo and Venezuela. Currently, 170 States were parties to the Convention; the sponsors of the draft resolution hoped that the goal of universal ratification, as established in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, would soon be achieved.

43. She drew attention to paragraphs 2, 4, 5, 8, 12 and 16 of the draft resolution and welcomed the efforts and initiatives of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. It was regrettable that, owing to technical reasons, it had not been possible to consider the report of the Committee on the work of its twenty-seventh session; she hoped that it would be possible to do so before the draft resolution was taken up in plenary session. After thanking all delegations for their constructive contributions to the negotiations, she expressed the hope that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

44. **The Chairman** said that Belize, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cuba, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Georgia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Indonesia, Kenya, Liberia, Mauritius, Mongolia, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Panama and Suriname had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.20: Working towards the elimination of crimes against women committed in the name of honour

45. **Mr. Hof** (Netherlands), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.20 on behalf of its sponsors, who had been joined by Albania, Andorra, Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Estonia, the Gambia, Georgia, Samoa, San Marino, Thailand, Venezuela and Yugoslavia, said that extensive consultations had been held in an atmosphere of transparency and cooperation; the flexibility shown by delegations had helped produce a text which, although it might require minor amendments, reaffirmed the resolve of the international community to work towards the elimination of crimes against women committed in the name of honour. His delegation therefore hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

46. **The Chairman** said that Benin, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Uganda had also become sponsors.

Draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.21: Improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system

47. **Mr. Begg** (New Zealand), speaking also on behalf of Australia and Canada, introduced the draft resolution on behalf of its sponsors, which were joined by Austria, Belgium, Belize, Brazil, Cape Verde, Denmark, Eritrea, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guyana, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, the Netherlands, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sweden, Tuvalu, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

48. It was regrettable that the goal of gender equality in the United Nations system, agreed to at the Fourth World Conference on Women, had not been met by the year 2000. The stalling of progress in that regard, and the statistics contained in paragraph 56 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/57/447) were a matter of concern. The draft resolution encouraged the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts in that connection. He welcomed the introduction, in May 2002, of a new staff selection system (ST/AI/2002/4).

49. In relation to paragraph 6 (d) of the draft resolution, he said that efforts to recruit and promote women candidates would be in vain if the number of women leaving the Organization continued to increase. Referring to the probable causes of those departures, as described in paragraph 56 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/57/447), he said that in the draft resolution, the Secretary-General was requested to undertake further analysis of those causes and to institute remedial measures.

50. Lastly, Member States were strongly encouraged to submit more women candidates for appointment to vacant positions and for appointment or election to expert and treaty bodies or as judges or other senior officials in international courts and tribunals.

51. **Ms. Zhang Meifang** reiterated her delegation's support for the draft resolution, and said that it wished to become a sponsor.

52. **The Chairman** said that Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Panama, Thailand, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Venezuela wished to join the sponsors.

Draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.22: Elimination of all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

53. **Mr. Andrabi** (Pakistan), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of its sponsors, which had been joined by Argentina, Eritrea, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mozambique, Nepal, Senegal, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela, recalled that the physical, sexual and psychological abuse to which women and girls in all societies were subjected, regardless of their class or culture, had been identified as one of the 12 areas of concern in the Beijing Platform for Action. Paragraph 96 (a) of the annex to General Assembly resolution S-23/3, adopted at its twenty-third special session, listed various forms of violence against women; the resolution recognized that violence against women violated their basic rights and freedoms and impaired or nullified the enjoyment of those rights. It was therefore imperative that the Committee should reaffirm its commitment to eliminate all such acts of violence without distinction.

54. At the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, Pakistan, Algeria and several other delegations had submitted a comprehensive draft resolution, which had been sponsored by 120 Member States and adopted by consensus as General Assembly resolution 55/68. The report that the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-seventh session had been issued as document A/57/171 and was complemented by two other reports, entitled "Working towards the elimination of crimes against women committed in the name of honour" (A/57/169) and "Trafficking in women and girls" (A/57/170). In that regard, he said that the sponsors of the draft resolution on the elimination of honour crimes against women (A/C.3/57/L.20) and of draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.22 had been working together to integrate the two resolutions but had been unable to reach a consensus for lack of time. Both sides, however, had expressed their willingness to continue working for an omnibus resolution on all forms of violence against women, including crimes committed in the name of honour and, possibly, trafficking in women and girls. Support from the Committee for their efforts to avoid duplication and take a more focused approach to the problem would be welcome.

55. Draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.22 was an updated version of General Assembly resolution 55/68; technical changes had been made in the third preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 1, 5 and 6 and 14.

56. The sponsors hoped that the draft resolution, like the previous resolution, would be adopted by consensus.

57. *Ms. Leyton (Chile) (Vice-Chairman) took the chair.*

58. **The Chairman** said that Burundi, Congo, Fiji, Guinea-Bissau, Kazakhstan, Liberia, Mongolia, Uganda and Zimbabwe had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

Agenda item 106: Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (A/57/296, A/57/395)

59. **Mr. Waly Ndiaye** (Director, New York Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (A/57/395), which provided information about the activities undertaken by the Office during the previous year, said that the establishment of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (13-24 May 2002), which had been defined as one of the goals of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, had resulted from a proposal made at the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993. The newly appointed Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people had now submitted his first report.

60. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights had continued to encourage inter-agency cooperation within the framework of the International Decade by working with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the International Labour Organization (ILO) on such initiatives as a workshop on indigenous peoples, the private sector, natural resource, energy and mining companies and human rights (Geneva, 5-7 December 2001). In 2002, the programmes of the Office had included the establishment of an indigenous media network and the organization of the third workshop on multiculturalism in Africa (Gabarone, Botswana, 18-22 February 2002), indigenous-led human rights training (Sabah, Malaysia, 24 February to 1 March 2002) and the indigenous fellowship programme, which had been extended to include training for Spanish- and French-speaking indigenous peoples.

61. The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations had been established by the General Assembly in resolution 40/131 to provide financial assistance to enable representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to participate in the deliberations of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations. It was funded by means of voluntary contributions from Governments, non-governmental organizations and other private or public entities. It should be noted that the General Assembly had extended the mandate of the Fund by its resolution 56/140 of 19 December 2001 by deciding that the Fund should also be used to assist indigenous representatives to attend, as observers, the sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

62. **Mr. Begg** (New Zealand) said that the report of the first session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues had identified six key subject areas to pursue in subsequent sessions — health, indigenous rights, economic and social development, education and culture, the environment, and children and youth — with the objective of determining how the activities of the relevant United Nations agencies could be better coordinated and more focused on indigenous issues. The role of the Permanent Forum was not to duplicate, but to enhance the work of those agencies by promoting coordination between them and heightened awareness of indigenous issues, and it would provide information, advice and recommendations to that end. If the Permanent Forum was to be effective, it was essential that it should receive full support from States and specialized agencies, including the necessary technical and financial support, since it was the Member States that had agreed to the establishment of the Forum.

63. His Government welcomed the attention given to indigenous issues in recent global conferences such as in the Political Declaration and Plan of Implementation adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which had specifically addressed traditional property rights, and also during the General Assembly special session on children and the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. States and indigenous peoples must redouble their efforts to elaborate the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples in order to meet the 2004 deadline. New Zealand had welcomed the opportunity at the twentieth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations to reflect on ways to raise the profile of indigenous issues within the United Nations system. With the establishment of the Permanent Forum, his Government had high expectations that the review of all mechanisms in that area would be completed by the deadline set by the Economic and Social Council. His delegation urged the Secretary-General to ensure that the review was comprehensive and impartial.

64. The Treaty of Waitangi continued to govern relations between the Mäori and his Government, which remained firmly committed to fulfilling its obligations as a treaty partner; it was also committed to reducing inequalities between Mäori and non-Mäori.

65. In the report it had submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in 2002, his Government had informed that Committee of the latest developments relating to the Mäori, and had been commended for the progress made, especially in the settlement of historical grievances, efforts to address the specific needs of the Mäori and policies for the revitalization of the Mäori language.

66. **Mr. Strømmen** (Norway), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that the establishment of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues was the result of a decade of dedicated work by indigenous peoples in cooperation with Governments and constituted a milestone in the achievement of one of the major objectives of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, who would now occupy their

rightful place within the United Nations system. The Permanent Forum had a mandate that enabled it to address a wide range of economic, cultural, social, educational, health and human rights concerns of indigenous peoples — issues that fell within the mandate of the Economic and Social Council, of which the Forum was an advisory body.

67. In the words of the Secretary-General in his closing statement at the first session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, "It is entirely appropriate that as victims of discrimination and as some of the world's poorest of the poor, the indigenous peoples have a platform where they can raise their concerns" .

68. That commitment, however, had not yet been followed up with adequate financial means to secure an effective functioning of the Forum. Member States had agreed in the Economic and Social Council that the Forum should be assisted by a secretariat within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs; the Nordic Governments were concerned that, without a well-functioning secretariat, no less than the future of the Permanent Forum was at stake.

69. There was much to be learned from the philosophy of indigenous peoples, particularly with regard to sustainable development, promoting biodiversity, increasing agricultural productivity and land conservation, which were high on the Forum's agenda. The Nordic Governments therefore welcomed the outcome documents of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the efforts of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, whose initial report had been submitted to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-eighth session. However, more energetic efforts must be made to complete the formulation of the draft declaration on the rights of the indigenous peoples before the end of the International Decade, in 2004.

70. **Mr. Negrin** (Mexico) said that his Government accorded priority to the establishment of a new relationship between the indigenous Mexican peoples, who numbered more than 10 million, and the State. Its policy was based on the 2001-2006 national plan of development for indigenous peoples, which focused on education (the establishment of boarding schools for underprivileged indigenous children and the distribution of free primary school textbooks in indigenous languages), health (a health and nutrition programme for infants between the 6 and 24 months of age and pregnant or nursing mothers), housing, culture and economic development.

71. With regard to legislation, there was a specific programme which aimed to guarantee indigenous peoples' access to State courts and respect for all their rights. In 2001, the Mexican Congress had adopted an amendment to the Constitution designed to recognize and guarantee the rights of indigenous peoples to self-determination (art. 2 (a)), but that amendment, which had not received unanimous national approval, was still under consideration at the national level, and his Government was promoting dialogue to reach a consensus.

72. At the international level, his delegation recognized the advances made since the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action in 1993 and welcomed the significant progress accomplished in the framework of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. That progress was mostly of an institutional nature, with the appointment by the Commission on Human Rights of a Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people — for which his Government and the Guatemalan Government had campaigned in 2001 — and the establishment of a Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. In that respect, his delegation stressed that, as a matter of priority, the international community must make good on its political commitment to support indigenous issues by establishing a secretariat for the Forum, for which the Committee would determine the terms of reference

73. In conclusion, his delegation hoped the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples would be adopted as soon as possible.

74. **Mr. Maquiera** (Chile) welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (A/57/395). Chile had participated actively both within the Subcommission on the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights and during the series of global conferences organized under United Nations auspices, in particular the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Forms of Intolerance. Through political declarations and plans of action, the indigenous issue had been taken up as an aspect of integral development.

75. The political commitment of the international community must now be translated into concrete action. Chile, for its part, had used all the international forums available to further the cause of indigenous peoples. The draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues both constituted essential instruments.

76. Since 1990, the year marking the return of democracy, Chile's indigenous policy had been based on the so-called Nueva Imperial Agreement signed in December 1989 by former President Aylwin and the representatives of various indigenous organizations. Pursuant to that agreement, the Government guaranteed the recognition in the Constitution of the rights of indigenous peoples and the promotion of their cultural integration. In 1993, a law had entered into force seeking to establish a new relationship between the State and indigenous peoples, based on respect for their particular identity and recognition of their rights.

77. The current Government had established a working group on issues related to indigenous peoples that had elaborated a plan of action containing 16 measures to strengthen social and public support for indigenous peoples. Dialogue between the State, society and the indigenous community had also resulted in the establishment of a commission on the establishment of historical truth and new treatment for indigenous peoples in national policy. Furthermore his Government had tabled highly symbolic constitutional reform whereby Chilean society would recognize the value and diversity of the cultures and heritage of its indigenous peoples.

78. With a loan from the Inter-American Development Bank, his Government was also implementing the "Origins" project which sought to improve the living conditions and promote the development of the Aymara, Mapuche and Atacaman peoples while respecting their identity, especially by strengthening the management and administrative capacity of participating indigenous communities with a view to sustainable development. The Chilean Congress was preparing to ratify ILO Convention No. 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries.

79. Conscious of the special relationship between indigenous peoples and the earth, the President had decided to transfer 150,000 new hectares of land to indigenous communities. It should be noted that more than 215,000 hectares had already been transferred between 1994 and 2001, benefiting some 5,000 indigenous families.

80. In the fields of education and culture, the Government programme of indigenous scholarships for primary, secondary, vocational and university education continued to expand, with 25,000 scholarships currently being awarded each year, compared to 18,000 in 2000. Furthermore, a bilingual intercultural educational programme was currently being implemented, with the goal of training bilingual teachers, developing bilingual pedagogical material and supporting intercultural schools. Lastly, his Government had established programmes for indigenous women and girls, in particular those living in urban areas and employed as maids in private homes.

81. *Mr. Wenaweser (Liechtenstein) resumed the Chair.*

82. **Ms. Lewis** (International Labour Organization) said that ILO was concerned about the plight of the world's indigenous peoples, who currently comprised 350 million people belonging to the most impoverished and disadvantaged groups of society, who were often victims of exploitation and discrimination. ILO had become involved in their plight through its study of forced labour among so-called "native populations" in colonies in the 1920s. ILO Convention No. 29 concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour had led to the adoption of Convention No. 107 of 1957 concerning the Protection and Integration of Indigenous and other Tribal and Semi-Tribal Populations in Independent Countries, as well as Convention No. 169, of 1989 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries. Those two instruments established minimum standards with respect to the civil, political and social rights of indigenous and tribal peoples. ILO Convention No. 169, ratified, thus far by 17 States, provided for equal treatment and opportunities for indigenous peoples, in particular with regard to access to health, social security, education and employment. It also recognized the right of indigenous peoples to retain their own culture and customary laws, including self-identification, traditional land rights and the right to their own language, and the right of indigenous peoples to be consulted, to express their views and to

participate in decision-making on matters directly affecting them.

83. In Cambodia, Cameroon, India, Kenya, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Namibia, South Africa, Thailand and the United Republic of Tanzania, ILO was undertaking a project to promote policy on indigenous and tribal peoples aimed at increasing dialogue, cooperation and understanding between indigenous peoples and Governments and enhancing the capacity of indigenous and tribal peoples to participate in and take responsibility for processes that directly affected them. In order to increase the employment opportunities of indigenous people, an ILO interregional programme, which was particularly active in Central America, the Peruvian Amazon, as well as in the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam, encouraged the creation of indigenous cooperatives and other types of self-help associations, which were devised, implemented and evaluated by the indigenous communities themselves.

84. ILO had played a central role in the creation, in January 2002, of an Inter-Agency Support Group currently comprising representatives of 16 United Nations bodies. The Group provided an opportunity for agencies to discuss their work and to coordinate their contributions to the Permanent Forum and their interventions at the national, regional and international levels. It was the hope of ILO, an active participant in the preparations for the establishment of the Permanent Forum, that through a unified effort between States, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and other organizations, the Forum would make long-awaited progress.

The meeting rose at 12.05 p.m.